

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 17, 29, 40, 55, 63, 64 and 66 as follows:

1. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A method ~~for delivering software via~~
~~a network~~ comprising:

describing one or more software extensions using descriptions, the
extensions being configured for incorporation in a software platform executing on
a client; and

delivering the descriptions of the one or more extensions to the client via
~~the~~ a network, the descriptions being configured for use in downloading the
software extensions via the network;

said acts of describing and delivering being configured to enable software
to be delivered over the network.

2. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, wherein the network
comprises the Internet.

3. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, wherein the descriptions
comprise a tag-based, hierarchical language.

4. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, wherein the descriptions
comprise XML descriptions.

5. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, wherein:
the network comprises the Internet; and

1 descriptions comprise XML descriptions.

2
3 6. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the software
4 extensions are configured to make context-based changes in the operation of the
5 software platform, the context-based changes being associated with the computing
6 context of a user.

7
8 7. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the software
9 platform is configured to provide a single application program having multiple
10 different functionalities that can enable a user to accomplish multiple different
11 tasks.

12
13 8. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 7, wherein the software
14 extensions are configured to make context-based changes in the operation of one
15 or more of the multiple different functionalities that change the manner in which a
16 user can accomplish a task associated with a particular functionality.

17
18 9. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the software
19 extensions provide user interface elements.

20
21 10. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the software
22 extensions provide behaviors, components, or objects.

23
24 11. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the software
25 extensions provide store elements.

1
2 **12. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, wherein the software
3 extensions provide user-defined elements.
4

5 **13. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, wherein the software
6 extensions provide one or more of the following:

7 user interface elements;
8 behaviors, components, or objects;
9 store elements; and
10 user-defined elements.
11

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12 **14. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, wherein at least one
13 extension provides an ability to add new points of extensibility.
14

15 **15. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, wherein the describing of the
16 one or more software extensions comprises describing the extensions using an
17 extension description file (EDF) comprising an XML file that describes a logical
18 attachment to the software platform.
19

20 **16. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1, wherein one or more of the
21 descriptions contains an implementation of all or part of the functionality of an
22 extension.
23
24
25

1 **17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)** One or more computer-readable
2 media having computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a
3 computer system, cause the computer system to:

4 describe one or more software extensions using extensible markup
5 language (XML), the extensions being configured for incorporation in a software
6 platform comprising a single application program, the single application program
7 having multiple different functionalities that can enable a user to accomplish
8 multiple different tasks; and

9 deliver XML descriptions of the one or more extensions to the client via the
10 Internet, the descriptions being configured for use in downloading the software
11 extensions via the Internet;

12 wherein causing said computer system to describe one or more extensions
13 and deliver XML descriptions enables software to be delivered over the Internet.
14

15 **18. (ORIGINAL)** A method for delivering software via a network
16 comprising:

17 describing one or more software extensions using one or more descriptive
18 files, the extensions being configured for incorporation in a software program
19 executing on a client;

20 associating the one or more descriptive files with one or more associated
21 extension files that are useable to provide a program functionality;

22 storing the descriptive files and associated extension files in a network-
23 accessible location; and

24 delivering the descriptive files and the associated extension files of the one
25 or more extensions to the client via a network.

1
2 **19. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 18, wherein said describing
3 comprises describing individual software extensions with at least one XML file,
4 including a description of a logical attachment to the software program, and a
5 description of one or more physical files and/or resources that are used in a
6 software extension.

7
8 **20. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 18, wherein the software
9 extensions are configured to make context-based changes in the operation of the
10 software application, the context-based changes being associated with the
11 computing context of a user.

12
13 **21. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 18, wherein the software
14 program comprises multiple different functionalities that can enable a user to
15 accomplish multiple different tasks, the one or more software extensions being
16 configured to make context-based changes in the operation of one or more of the
17 different functionalities that change the manner in which a user can accomplish a
18 task associated with a particular functionality.

19
20 **22. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 21, wherein the software
21 program comprises a single navigable window that can be navigated by a user
22 between the different functionalities.

23
24 **23. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 18, wherein the one or more
25 software extensions provide user interface elements.

1
2 **24. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 18, wherein the one or more
3 software extensions provide behaviors, components, or objects.
4

5 **25. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 18, wherein the one or more
6 software extensions provide store elements.
7

8 **26. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 18, wherein the one or more
9 software extensions provide user-defined elements.
10

11 **27. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 18, wherein the one or more
12 software extensions provide one or more of the following:
13

14 user interface elements;

15 behaviors, components, or objects;

16 store elements; and

17 user-defined elements.
18

19 **28. (ORIGINAL)** One or more computer-readable media having
20 computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer,
21 implement the method of claim 18.
22

23 **29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A method of ~~delivering software via~~
24 ~~a network~~ comprising:
25

 storing one or more extension definition files (EDFs) that describe a logical
 attachment to a software application program;

1 storing one or more extension files that correspond to the one or more
2 EDFs and extend the software application program; ~~and~~
3 delivering, via a network, at least one EDF to a client; and
4 delivering, via a the network, at least one extension file that corresponds to
5 the at least one EDF to a client;
6 both of said acts of storing and both of said acts of delivering enabling
7 software to be delivered over the network.

8
9 **30. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 29, wherein the EDFs are
10 defined in a hierarchical language.

11
12 **31. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 29, wherein the network
13 comprises the Internet.

14
15 **32. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 29, wherein said acts of storing
16 are accomplished by hosting said files with an Internet server.

17
18 **33. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 29, wherein the EDFs comprise
19 XML files.

20
21 **34. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 33, wherein the XML files
22 comprise predefined tags that are associated with feature types that are to be added
23 to the application program.

1 35. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 34, wherein one or more of the
2 predefined tags correspond to user interface elements.

3
4 36. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 34, wherein one or more of the
5 predefined tags correspond to services which can be behaviors, components, or
6 objects.

7
8 37. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 34, wherein one or more of the
9 predefined tags correspond to store elements.

10
11 38. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 34, wherein the XML files
12 comprise user-defined tags that are associated with user-defined features that are
13 to be added to the application program.

14
15 39. **(ORIGINAL)** One or more computer-readable media having
16 computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer,
17 implement the method of claim 29.

18
19 40. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A data structure embodied on a
20 computer-readable medium comprising:

21 a first sub-structure indicative of a software extension that is to be
22 incorporated in a software application program;

23 one or more second sub-structures associated with the first sub-structure
24 and ~~indicative of~~ indicating feature types that ~~can be~~ are added by the extension to
25 the application program; and

1 one or more third sub-structures associated with the one or more second
2 sub-structures and ~~indicative of~~ indicating features of an associated feature type
3 that ~~can be~~ are added by the extension.
4

5 **41. (ORIGINAL)** The data structure of claim 40, wherein the one or
6 more second sub-structures are children of the first sub-structures.
7

8 **42. (ORIGINAL)** The data structure of claim 40, wherein the one or
9 more third sub-structures are children of the one or more second sub-structures.
10

11 **43. (ORIGINAL)** The data structure of claim 40, wherein the one or
12 more second sub-structures are children of the first sub-structures, and the one or
13 more third sub-structures are children of the one or more second sub-structures.
14

15 **44. (ORIGINAL)** The data structure of claim 40, wherein the sub-
16 structures comprise XML tags.
17

18 **45. (ORIGINAL)** The data structure of claim 40, wherein the feature
19 types comprise one or more of the following feature types:

20 user interface elements;

21 behaviors, components, or objects;

22 store elements; and

23 user-defined elements.
24
25

1 **46. (ORIGINAL)** The data structure of claim 40, wherein the data
2 structure comprises an open XML schema that can be extended.

3
4 **47. (ORIGINAL)** The data structure of claim 40, wherein the data
5 structure comprises an open XML schema that can be extended by third parties.

6
7 **48. (ORIGINAL)** A method of delivering software via a network
8 comprising:

9 navigating to a network site that maintains at least one software application
10 program; and

11 downloading a software application program from the network site, the
12 application program comprising multiple different functionalities that can assist a
13 user in accomplishing different tasks, the software application program being
14 configured to be extended with software extensions that are deliverable via a
15 network and are described by at least one network-deliverable file.

16
17 **49. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 48, wherein the application
18 program comprises a single navigable window that can be navigated by a user
19 between the multiple different functionalities.

20
21 **50. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 48 further comprising extending
22 the software application program by adding at least one extension to the
23 application program.

1 **51. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 50, wherein said extending
2 comprises:

3 using a link to navigate to a different network site that hosts one or more
4 XML files that describe the extension, and extension files that are used to
5 implement the extension; and

6 downloading the one or more XML files and the extension files to a client.
7

8 **52. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 51, wherein one of the XML
9 files comprises a file that logically describes an extension, and one of the XML
10 files comprises a file that describes the extension files.

11
12 **53. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 51, wherein the link is stored in
13 a user preference.
14

15 **54. (ORIGINAL)** One or more computer-readable media having
16 computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer,
17 cause the computer to:

18 navigate to a network site that maintains at least one software application
19 program;

20 download a software application program comprising multiple different
21 functionalities that can assist a user in accomplishing different tasks, the software
22 application program being configured to be extended with software extensions that
23 are deliverable via the network and described by at least one network-deliverable
24 file; and
25

1 extend the software application program by adding at least one extension to
2 the application program, the extension being added by using a link to navigate to a
3 different network site that hosts one or more files that describe the extension, and
4 extension files that are used to implement the extension and downloading the one
5 or more files and the extension files to a client.

6
7 **55. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A method ~~of delivering software via~~
8 ~~a network~~ comprising:

9 accessing a Web site through which one or more software extensions can be
10 obtained and through use of which software can be delivered;

11 receiving at least one file that describes at least one software extension
12 using a hierarchical language that describes the software extension's logical
13 attachment to a software application program;

14 receiving one or more software extension files; and

15 installing the one or more software extension files based, at least in part, on
16 the description contained in said at least one file.

17
18 **56. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 55, wherein the hierarchical
19 language that describes the software extension's logical attachment comprises a
20 tag-based language.

21
22 **57. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 55, wherein the hierarchical
23 language that describes the software extension's logical attachment comprises
24 extensible markup language (XML).
25

1 **58. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 55, wherein said installing
2 comprises doing so without manipulating a client registry or any registry keys that
3 are permanently persisted on the client machine.
4

5 **59. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 55, further comprising
6 determining whether an update to a software extension is available and, if so,
7 receiving update extension files.
8

9 **60. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 59, wherein said determining
10 comprises polling an extension catalog.
11

12 **61. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 59, wherein said determining
13 comprises polling an extension catalog comprising an XML file.
14

15 **62. (ORIGINAL)** One or more computer-readable media having
16 computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer,
17 cause the computer to implement the method of claim 55.
18

19 **63. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A method ~~of providing software for~~
20 ~~delivery over a network~~ comprising:
21

22 describing one or more software extensions using one or more extensible
23 markup language (XML) files, the extensions being configured for incorporation
24 in a software program executing on a client;

25 associating the one or more XML files with one or more associated
extension files that are useable to provide a program functionality; and

1 storing the XML files and associated extension files in a network-accessible
2 location;

3 said acts of describing and associating being configured to provide software
4 for delivery over the network.

5
6 **64. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A network site ~~through which a~~
7 ~~client can access software files~~ comprising:

8 one or more software extension files configured to be incorporated into a
9 software application program, the software extension files being configured to
10 allow delivered delivery of software via a network; and

11 one or more files associated with the one or more software extension files
12 and describing the extension files, the one or more files describing a logical
13 attachment of the one or more software extension files to the software application
14 program.

15
16 **65. (ORIGINAL)** The network site of claim 64, wherein the
17 hierarchical language comprises extensible markup language (XML).

18
19 **66. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A method of managing network-
20 based software extensions comprising:

21 grouping multiple software extension descriptions in a catalog in a
22 network-accessible location to enable delivery of software via a network;

23 accessing the network-accessible location; and

24 using the catalog to update a software extension that is resident on a
25 computing device.

1
2 **67. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 66 further comprising querying
3 the catalog to ascertain an extension description.
4

5 **68. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 66 further comprising querying
6 the catalog based on a user's personal setting.
7

8 **69. (ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 66, wherein the extension
9 descriptions are defined in XML.
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